



Darmstadt Garrison saves big bucks with energy savings contract

DARMSTADT, Germany – Community residents can give themselves a pat on the back. They helped IMCOM-Europe's Darmstadt garrison save more than € 660,000 last year.

With the money crunch felt pretty much everywhere these days, this high number is a great thing for the U.S. Army, said Scott West of the Darmstadt Garrison's Directorate of Public Works. "We are a relatively smaller garrison but we did have some serious savings."

The savings were earned through the energy-savings performance contract, an initiative to bring in a private company to assess what can be done to cut costs for the U.S. Army, said West.

In 2004, Honeywell Corp. came to the garrison with a 7-year, 10-month plan to reduce costs in about 30 buildings on Cambrai-Fritsch Kaserne and in Jefferson Village installing equipment in each of the buildings to regulate heating and hot water heating.

"It's really about cost avoidance," said West. "If we can reduce the utility bills, that money can go towards more important things, like our Soldiers."

Because of the regulated heating and hot water heating some residents had expressed concern that temperatures aren't what they were used to.

"After we explain the contract to them and they realize how they are contributing to the bottom line of saving energy and costs, they buy into it," said West. "If you level with people and they are brought into the solution they feel personally responsible to roll with it."

The energy-savings performance contract is a win-win situation for the Army, the environment, and the residents, said Christian Mueller, marketing communications manager for Honeywell Building Solutions.

West added that the contract fits right in with the Army's mission in conservation.

"The advantage is we are not expelling a lot of costs for energy that we need to conserve which has all sorts of advantages both to our mission in the Army as well as our mission on this planet," he said. "We need to be good stewards of our resources."

***Story by Jayme Loppnow
USAG Darmstadt Herald Post***